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(c) what the market rate for the gunnies per yard was according to the controlled price during the months of January, February, March, April and May 1946;

(d) whether any gunnies were bought during these months for the Government Stationery Stores; and

(e) if so, at what price?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"(a) About 6,000 yards a year.

"(b) The gunnies were purchased in the open market till 31st May 1946 and through tender from 1st June 1946.

"(c) Rupees 33–10–0 for a piece of 100 yards.

"(d) Yes.

"(e) At Rs. 33–10–0 per 100 yards."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA:—"May I know whether that was the market rate for the gunnies at that time?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"It must have been, Sir."

Using of baskets in Government Stationery Stores, Madras, for packing.

* 78 Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether baskets were at one time extensively used for packing purposes in the Government Stationery Stores;

(b) whether the baskets were condemned as unsafe for packing articles for despatch from the Government Stationery Stores;

(c) if so, whether the use of the baskets has since been given up;

(d) whether, when sufficient planks were available for packing during the months of April and May 1946 baskets were bought; and

(e) if so, why?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"(a) Yes.

"(b) No.

"(c) The question does not arise.

"(d) & (e) Planks were not easily procurable at that time. Empty packing cases were received from various Government offices of the Presidency which were utilized for packing. In addition to this baskets were also bought for packing purposes to meet the demand."

Certain class of workers regarded as menials paid from contingencies in Government Sationery Stores, Madras.

* 79 Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether any workers in the Government Stationery Stores, whose work is of a permanent and continuous character, are regarded as menials paid from contingencies;

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(*b*) why they are so regarded even though their work is of a continuous and permanent character;

(*c*) what their wages or salaries are;

(*d*) whether they are entitled to any periodical increment;

(*e*) whether the benefit of the dearness allowance was given to them to meet the rise in the cost of living;

(*f*) whether the sweeper of the stores belonging to the contingent category was given the benefit of the allowance;

(*g*) whether the salary of the sweeper of the Government Stationery Stores was reduced from Rs. 12 to Rs. 9 per mensem consequent upon the increase of dearness allowance; and

(*h*) whether the Government will consider the desirability of restoring the cut and refunding the deductions made?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"(*a*) The following categories of workers paid from contingencies are regarded as menials:—Tinker, watchman, lascars, messengers, lorry driver, waterman, scavenger and sweeper, coolies and carpenters.

"(*b*) They are regarded as such as they hold non-pensionable appointments.

"(*c*) Their pay and wages are as follows:—

	RS.	A.	
Tinker	30	0	per mensem
Watchman (three)	20	0	,,
Three Gurkha watchmen	25	0	,,
Lascars (two)	18	0	,,
,, (five)	16	0	,,
,, (eleven)	13	0	,,
Messengers (two)	12	0	,,
Lorry driver	30	0	,,
Waterman	9	0	,,
Scavenger	9	0	,,
Sweeper	10	0	,,
Coolies	0	8	daily
Carpenters	0	14	,,

"All are paid dearness allowance at Rs. 16 per mensem except the sweeper who is not a whole-time servant.

"(*d*) As their pay is fixed according to market rates, they are not entitled to periodical increments.

"(*e*) Yes.

"(*f*) The sweeper of the stores was not given the benefit of dearness allowance as she was not a whole-time servant.

"(*g*) The pay of sweeper was not reduced. It was increased from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10.

"(*h*) In view of the answer to clause (*g*) the question does not arise."

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SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know who determines the so-called market rates?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR :—" The people who are in charge of the administration of the stores."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know on what basis are the so-called market rates determined?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR :—" I presume it must have been according to the local rates."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" My question was who determines the market rates?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR :—" The people in charge of the stores, Sir."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I ask why this market rate should not be applied to everybody and only to certain sections of Government workers?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR :—" That does not arise out of this question."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask what are the grounds on which certain posts are treated as pensionable and certain posts are treated as non-pensionable?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR :—" It is a matter which is under the active consideration of the Government."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether it is not a fact that these posts are treated as non-pensionable because they are contingent and they are treated as contingent because they are non-pensionable?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR :—" I should think the hon. Member knows it better than I do."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" I may add to the reply given by the Hon. Minister for Education by saying that if they are contingent they will not be pensionable ordinarily unless they become extraordinarily contingent which would entitle them to be treated as permanent."

UNSTARRED QUESTION.

Co-operative Central Stores, Ltd., Vizianagram.

11 *Q.*—SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI : Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amounts of losses for the years 1942–43 and 1943–44 of Co-operative Central Stores, Limited, Vizianagram;

(*b*) the actual loss sustained on account of Guntur chillies purchased in the year 1942–43 by the abovesaid Co-operative Stores, Limited;